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Docket No. 2629-4017

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): James ANTHONY et al.

Group Art Unit: 1656

Serial No.: 09/954,839

Examiner: Chunduru, S.

Filed: June 15, 2000

For: DETECTION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS BY TYPE-SPECIFIC HYBRID CAPTURE METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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Please amend the above-identified application in response to the Official
Action of October 10, 2001 as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A method of detecting a target nucleic acid comprising:
- a) hybridizing a single-stranded target nucleic acid to a capture sequence probe and a signal sequence probe to form double-stranded hybrids between said probes and the target nucleic acid, wherein the capture sequence probe and the signal sequence probe hybridize to non-overlapping regions within the target nucleic acid and do not hybridize to each other;
 - b) adding a blocker probe to the hybridization reaction, wherein said blocker probe hybridizes to excess non-hybridized capture sequence probes;
 - c) capturing the hybrid to form a bound hybrid; and
 - d) detecting the bound hybrid.
2. (amended) A method of detecting a target nucleic acid comprising:
- a) hybridizing a single-stranded target nucleic acid to an immobilized capture sequence probe and a signal sequence probe to form double-stranded hybrids between said probes and the target nucleic acid, wherein the capture sequence probe and the signal